

# Hawaii MARINE SPORTS

Hawaii Marine C Section

May 7, 2004

## Service members assist special athletes

**Sgt. Reina Barnett**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Forces Pacific

HAWAII KAI — Marines and Sailors from Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Marine Forces Pacific volunteered their time and talents, recently, when the Windward Oahu Special Olympics held its 2004 Track and Field Competition on the athletic field of Henry J. Kaiser High School here.

Athletes participated in various track events such as the 100-meter dash, the 100-meter walk and the 800-meter run. Some of the field events included boys and girl's shot put and the running long jump.

"I wanted to help out," said Cpl. Bradley G. Reardon, help desk technician for MarForPac G-6. Reardon, the head official for the track meet.

Sergeant Maj. Dorsey E. Roberts Jr., battalion sergeant major, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, has volunteered with the Special Olympics in Hawaii for seven years.

"I enjoy being here and making a difference," said Roberts. "It's something I can do with my whole family; it's easy to do and it's fun. It gives us [the military] a good name and a good reputation in the community."

The track meet drew about 45 Marines and Sailors, all of whom voluntarily request to be kept informed of events they can contribute their time to.

"We simply can't hold these important events without them," said Nancy Bottelo, CEO and president of Special Olympics Hawaii, speaking of the volunteers.

"The military has always provided volunteers, transportation, and sometimes even food," she said.

For more information on how you can make a difference in the lives of Special Olympics Windward athletes, please call (808) 254-5705 or email sohwindward@earthlink.net.



## 3/3 aims for the the 'V' ring



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

**Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, pitcher Mike Garrett hurls a fastball toward a waiting Larry Drake, pitcher for Marine Aircraft Group 24, during the Intramural Baseball Championship Series at Reiseley Field, April 30.**



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

**Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, won the Intramural Baseball Championship in two games. (Back row, left to right) Dennis Minton, Chris Arena, Ross Graves, Rookie Benham, (left to right, kneeling) center-fielder Lohman, Nick Kitchen, Kyle Truckenmiller, Scott Judd, Mike Garrett and Harry Willet, proudly display their awards.**

## Third Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment bests MAG-24 in two games to win the Intramural Championship

**Pfc. Rich Mattingly**  
Sports Editor

In the second game of the best-of-three Intramural Baseball Championship at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, it was gutsy defensive play and tight pitching that gave 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, the edge over the Marauders of Marine Aircraft Group 24, for a 2-1 victory, April 30.

The second game in the series drew an even larger and more vocal crowd than the first. The rowdy fans weren't at all shy about sharing with everyone at Reiseley Field who they thought would be taking home the honor of being the best baseball players aboard MCB Hawaii.

Chants of "air wing" and "thanks for the ride" sharply divided the dugouts in the friendly, but intense, Friday evening rivalry.

After a close game on the 28th, in which 3/3 hung on to beat the MAG, 4-2, the crowd was expecting a show. They wouldn't be disappointed on either side of the diamond.

Pitching for 3/3, the gifted lefty Mike Garrett quickly settled into a groove while the Marauders seemed content to try and play small ball, working the base paths with the speed of catcher Dan Edwards and the other MAG-24 speed demons.

The Marauders' strategy seemed clear when their lead-off hitter, second baseman Ken Coquillard, attempted to bunt.

As was so often the case this season, the first run of the night came signed, sealed and delivered from the bat of 3/3 clean-up man Kyle Truckenmiller, who doubled to center to bring in the first score of the game. Up by one run, the nervous 3/3 dugout got a little bit looser and a lot more vocal as the chatter increased.

Seemingly unfazed was the Marauder's sideways hurler Larry Drake, who remained calm to the dismay of 3/3's growing fan base, and finished out the side after savvy play caught a snoozing 3/3 base runner at second.

The Marauders got their turn to let their wood and aluminum do the talking in the fourth. Rolling over the rotation, Clow scored what turned out to be MAG-24's only run of the night after an overthrow by 3/3 catcher Nick Kitchen let him barrel home.

Then things got a little dicey for Garrett as MAG-24 runners, arguably equipped with the best speed and signals in the league, surrounded him on loaded bases.

Garrett, leaning heavily on his defense, escaped the inning with the score holding at 1-1 after a dribbling single was intercepted, and 3/3 got the force out at home.

By the bottom of the fifth, both pitchers were starting to lose a little heat with arms hanging limply between throws. Batters on both sides knew that the game could break either way, and soon.

The Marauders' defense was no joke, keeping 3/3 close to the bags all night.

See *BASEBALL*, C-8

## CSSG-3 serves, sets, spikes Warriors

**Pfc. Rich Mattingly**  
Sports Editor

In a whirlwind week of sports at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, one would be remiss to overlook the great Intramural Volleyball match-ups every Wednesday and Friday at K-Bay's Semper Fit Center.

Wednesday night, the quickly improving Headquarters Batt-

alion Warriors narrowly lost to the undefeated team from Combat Service Support Group 3, in net-crashing volleyball action.

Warming up, both teams looked evenly matched with Billy Turner of Headquarter's height evenly matched by Eric Aisoff of CSSG-3. Both teams also appeared to have good chemistry and communication.

The crowd that was gathered in the bleachers at the Semper Fit Center settled down to watch as the line judge's whistle blew and the first server sent the ball arcing over the net.

The first few minutes of the game saw points flying back and forth between the teams. Intramural Volleyball, unlike college or semi-pro volleyball, relies on rally scoring to keep

matches intense and exciting to watch. In rally scoring, whichever team wins a possession scores a point, not just whichever side is serving.

Matches are a best-of-three games contest, the first two games going to 25 points, the third game to 15, if both teams are tied after the first two games.

See *VOLLEYBALL*, C-7



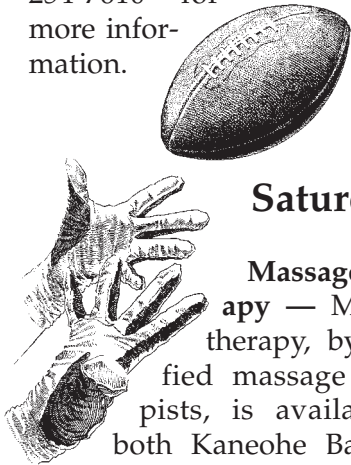
# BASE SPORTS

**Edward Hanlon V**  
MCCS Public Relations

## May

### 7 / Today

**Youth Football & Cheer-leading** — Registration is currently underway for Youth Flag Football and Cheerleading. The season begins in October, but register now to ensure your place. Call Youth Activities at 254-7610 for more information.



### 8 / Saturday

**Massage Therapy** — Massage therapy, by certified massage therapists, is available at both Kaneohe Bay and Camp H. M. Smith. The massage therapy program helps to relieve your mental and physical fatigue and improve overall circulation and body

tone. Appointments are available by calling the Kaneohe Bay Semper Fit Center at 254-7597, or Camp Smith at 477-5197.

### 9 / Sunday

**Gone Fishin’** — Join Mahalo Kai Fishing Charters for a day beyond the bay. Located at the base marina, the charter contractor now has two boats to accommodate all of your fishing needs, so you can spend your day with family and friends off the coast of Windward Oahu, catching some of the ocean’s most exotic and tasty fish.

For more information, call 254-7667.

**Pool Plunge** — Wet your feet and beat the heat at any one of four MCCS pools: the K-Bay main pool, Bldg. 981; Hilltop pool, Bldg. 502; the Officers’ Club, for members only; the Camp Smith pool, Bldg. 125; and the Manana Housing pool, Bldg. 840.

**Adventure Training** —

Designed to promote unit cohesiveness and enhance confidence in the water, Adventure Training is a fun alternative to regular unit workouts. Learn different water sports and complete physical training at the same time.

Classes are offered in scuba, kayaking, power boating and water skiing, and Adventure Training is offered at no charge to all MCB Hawaii units.

Training noncommissioned officers and staff NCOs should call the base marina at 254-7667 for more details.

### 10 / Monday

**Intramural Softball** — Calling all Camp Smith personnel. Intramural Softball will begin Monday, so submit your team rosters to the Camp Smith

Fitness Center, Bldg. 2C, today. Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 and 7 p.m. For more information, call Angie at 477-0498.

### 11 / Tuesday

**Mixed Bowling League** — Every Tuesday, K-Bay Lanes is hosting the Friends of K-Bay Mixed Bowling League. The league begins at 6 p.m.

Don’t split; call K-Bay Lanes at 254-7664 for more information.

**Okinawa Kenpo Karate** — Every Tuesday and Thursday, join the newest contractor at MCCS Youth Activities for Okinawa Kenpo Karate Kobudo classes, held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Bldg. 1391, located behind the 7-Day Store.

Adults and children are welcome, and classes cost only \$35 for adults, \$25 for children and an additional \$20 for other family members.

Call Youth Activities for more details at 254-7610.

### 12 / Wednesday

**Color Pin Special** — Every Wednesday, roll a strike when a colored pin is in the head-pin position and win up to three free games of bowling. All patrons are welcome to this deal. If you make the play, you win!

### 13 / Thursday

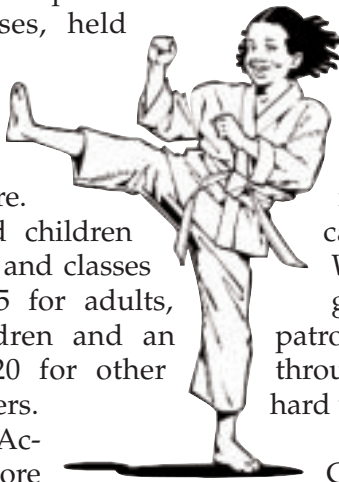
**Parents for Fitness** — This cooperative baby-sitting effort is available at the Semper Fit Center, and is open for children ages 6 weeks and older. All active duty service members and their families may participate; however, PFFP participants are required to volunteer baby-sit three times per month.

Call 235-6585 for more information.

### 14 / Friday

**Weight Management** — Semper Fit has added a new weapon to its arsenal of fitness management called the Lifestyles & Weight Management Program. It’s designed to help patrons reach a healthy weight through lifestyle changes and hard work in the gym.

Call the Semper Fit Center and make an appointment at 254-7597.



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

## Base All Star

**NAME:** Nick Kitchen

**SPORT:** Baseball

**TEAM:** 3/3

• **Kitchen, 22, is originally from Tacoma, Wash., where he played baseball at Tacoma Community College before enlisting in the Marine Corps.**

• **He struck out 17 batters and allowed only one hit in the first game of the Intramural Baseball Championships**

• **He says he has been pitching his entire life.**

## Intramural Softball Standings

	Wins	Losses
CSSG-3 Supply	3	0
VPU-2	1	0
HSL-37 Easy Riders	1	0
Mess Hall	1	0
3rd Radio Bn	2	1
CPRW-2	2	1
3rd Marines	1	1
Band Stingers	1	1
HQBN	1	1
MAG-24	0	0
CAC Hickerbillies	1	2
One Flew East	0	1
MCAF	0	1
CSSG-3 Electronics	0	1
Dental Young Guns	0	2
CSSG-3 Maintenance	0	2

*Intramural Softball standings are current as of April 28.*

# COMMUNITY SPORTS

### State Offers Free Recreation

The Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources is offering education classes for the public. Subjects covered include firearms and archery safety, survival and first aid, wildlife identification and conservation, regulations, game care and outdoor responsibility.

Attendance at two sessions is required for certification, and classes are open to anyone 10 years or older who enjoys the outdoors — not just hunters.

The next two-day session is today from 5:45 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Classroom #A-212 at the Nimitz Business Center, 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy. (Drive up the ramp to the classroom, which is the first room on the right.) A picture ID is required for entry to the sessions.

For more information about outdoor education, or to sign up for this course, call 587-0200.

### HTMC Hikes Mokuleia and Koko Head

•The Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club challenges intermediate-level hikers on a well-graded, eight-mile trail that provides an exceedingly pleasant and scenic climb to the Waianae summit, Sunday at 8 a.m.

En route are a eucalyptus forest, a small orange and tangerine orchard and

a variety of native plants, all leading to a breathtaking view of the lush Makua Valley.

If you want to trek along, contact hike coordinator Ken Suzuki at 845-4691.

•Novice hikers can see great views, shoreline plants and crashing waves when the HTMC meets for a two-mile stroll of the Hanauma shoreline on its “Koko Head Scramble,” Saturday, May 15 at 8 a.m.

You don’t want to forget your sunscreen for this hike, or you will surely suffer serious sunburn.

Call coordinator John Hoover at 528-1206 to tag along.

•A \$2 donation is requested from each nonmember, ages 18 and over, and a responsible adult must accompany children under 18. Firearms, pets, and radios and other audio devices are prohibited on all hikes.

### ‘Rumble on the Rock’ to Show ‘Military Appreciation’

Rumble on the Rock is honoring the men and women of the military today from 7:30 until 10 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Arena. Special seating and discount ticket prices will be provided to all military personnel and family members.

Rumble on the Rock is a world class mixed martial arts event that matches

the best martial artists in the world against each other in a 30-foot octagon cage. Attendees will see fighters from all over the world such as pro boxers, kickboxing champions, Olympic wrestlers, Brazilian jujitsu champions, and many more.

Tickets can be purchased either at military Information Ticket and Tour offices or at the Neal Blaisdell Box Office. For up-to-date information, surf [www.rumbleontherock.com](http://www.rumbleontherock.com), or call military coordinator Senior Chief Jeff Conrad at 351-0179.

### Windward Hosts Marathon, May 16

Athletes can mark their calendars for the 24th Annual Holokiki O’Alele, a family day for racing, jogging or walking, Sunday morning, May 16. Events will include a half-marathon from Enchanted Lake to Aikahi and back at 6 a.m.; a 20k team (four-person teams in the open, military and business/employee categories — all with male, female and mixed team categories) at 6:15 a.m.; a 5k race or walk once around Enchanted Lake at 6:30 a.m.; a one-mile run for kids 6 - 13 years old at 8 a.m.; and a 100-yard run for tiny tikes from 3 - 5 years old at 8:30 a.m.

This year’s effort will support the “No Drug Zone Kailua” project at Castle

Medical Center and by other organizations hosting the event.

Obtain registration information, breakfast specials and race cost details online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), or at most running and biking stores on Oahu.

### 5-on-5 Tourney to Benefit Radford H.S.

The First Class Petty Officer Association of the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center is holding its first-ever Ed Earhart Scholarship Fund Basketball Tournament on May 15 - 16.

This two-day event, to be held at the Bloch Arena at Pearl Harbor, is a 5-on-5, double-elimination, round robin tournament.

Entry fee is \$150 per team, with prizes for the top three teams. All proceeds will go to the scholarship fund, which will provide a \$1,000 annual scholarship to a deserving senior at Radford High School, who is also the child of an active duty military family.

The scholarship fund bears the name of AG1 Earhart who gave his life during the attacks on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

For more information, call Petty Officer 1st Class Kathleen Denson at 471-0004.





# The Bottom Line

*(Editor's Note: "The Bottom Line" is the Hawaii Marine's weekly sports commentary from two sports aficionados who rarely see eye-to-eye when it comes to America's one true obsession – sports. Chances are you'll either agree with one of their takes or disagree with both. Our two resident sports junkies welcome your e-mails. We will print the top comments of the week from our readers. Contact Sgt. Lindsay at [lindsayjb@mcbh.usmc.mil](mailto:lindsayjb@mcbh.usmc.mil), or Capt. Robbins at [robbinskd@13meu.usmc.mil](mailto:robbinskd@13meu.usmc.mil). Remember, "If you don't speak up, you won't be heard!"*

## What is the biggest surprise in baseball?

**Capt. K. D. Robbins**  
*The Professor*

The scene: Dallas, Texas, December 10, 2000. Baseball's "golden boy," Alex Rodriguez, strikes gold with the Texas Rangers: \$21.7M for ten years. The future of the franchise lay in the gold glove hands of baseball's Michael Jordan.

Not since 1993, when Nolan Ryan gave Robin Ventura a good, old-fashioned beating on the mound of Arlington Stadium had Texas fans felt so optimistic. Oh, how things change.

Three-and-a-half years later, an MVP award for Rodriguez, three straight losing seasons, and a soap opera-like off season — to include the harassment of Red Sox All-Star shortstop

Nomar Garciapara, supposed-to-be-Ranger outfielder Manny Ramirez ranch-hunting in the Lone Star State and, of course, the resulting melodrama that could only involve Yankee owner George Steinbrenner, the Texas Rangers have the best record in baseball — further proof that players don't win in baseball, teams do.

For proof of this, look no further than "Balco Barry Bonds" in San Francisco.

The Yankees and A-Rod will be fine. They won't win the whole thing. But, that's another "Bottom Line." The biggest surprise of the young 2004 Major League Baseball season is that the Rangers are flat out good.

Take a closer look. Without

See *PROFESSOR*, C-8

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
*The Goat*

The biggest surprise in Major League Baseball after the first month of the season is not the "feel good" story coming out of Arlington, Texas, but rather the fact that the entire sports writing nation seems bent on announcing the New York Yankees' demise in their defacto obituaries.

Let The Goat tell you something: News of the George Steinbrenner's death has been greatly exaggerated. And that's no Huckleberry.

Thank Buddha that pennants are won on the field and not on the typewriter keys of the media. Pick up any paper, and all you hear is talk of a Red Sox — Cubs World Series, or of the Rangers having the greatest turnaround since the 1969 Miracle Mets.

Guess what folks? It's not going to happen. First off, the Cubs and the Red Sox really are cursed — and rightfully so. After all, the Red Sox won the World Series in 1918 only to have their owner go and sell Babe Ruth to the Yankees two years later to help finance his girlfriend's Broadway musical. And Boy George wasn't even in it. Flop. Needless to say, the Red Sox haven't won the title since.

But far worse than the "Curse of the Bambino" is, for obvious reasons, the Cubs' "Billy Goat Curse." It all began in 1945, when William "Billy Goat" Sianis attempted to bring his pet goat, Murphy, with him to Wrigley Field for Game 4 of the World Series.

Ticket ushers at the ballpark said the goat was too smelly and uncer-

See *GOAT*, C-8

### Readers Strike Back

“The Goat's article last week was nothing more than a homer job”

Gentlemen,

In reference to your "Bottom Line" articles of April 30 ("Who are the winners of the NFL draft?" page C-3), I would like to say that I noticed more than just a little touch of bias.

I seem to recall in one of the earlier articles The Goat talking about the Golden State Warriors and Oakland A's. Now he is talking about the Oakland Traitors. Oh yeah, The Goat also mentioned before that he was born in Oakland.

The Goat's article last week was nothing more than a homer job. Sure the Raiders made good use of their picks, but it is too little too late for the ageing team.

Furthermore, calling Al Davis, a genius, just about made me vomit. Detroit also did well, but they are still going to stink.

The Professor's article was a lot more realistic. The Broncos and Patriots got the best bang for the buck in the draft and off-season.

Just goes to show that you can lead a goat to water, but you can't make him think.

— *Tony PerezGiese*  
*Austin, Texas*

*(Editor's Note: Except for punctuation corrections, comments are printed as they are received, or "sic.")*

# Kids can ‘save face’ playing sports

Face guards and helmets protect kids from injury

**NAPS**  
*Featurettes*

With a little bit of care and planning, young people can be safer and protect their face from injury. That’s the word from experts at the American Association of Orthodontists, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry who all offer the following tips to young people and parents on “saving face.”

- 1) Wear a mouth guard for any contact sport. Mouth guards can help prevent jaw, mouth and teeth injuries and are less costly than recovering from the injury.
- 2) Wear a helmet and it will protect your head by absorbing the energy of an impact. You won’t have to lose your head because you take a spill when cycling, snowboarding, rollerblading or horse-back riding.
- 3) Wear protective eyewear so your mom won’t have to say, “You’ll poke your eye out.” More importantly, you’ll be able to keep your eye on the ball.
- 4) Wear a face shield to keep your skin free from scratches and bruises. Hockey pucks, basketballs and racquetballs can do severe damage.
- 5) Be aware of family pets. Each year roughly 44,000 people incur facial injuries from dog bites. Children should be supervised when playing with family pets. This includes cats and rabbits as well.
- 6) Buckle up and use appropriate child safety seats. Passengers who don’t buckle up are more likely to have a brain injury in a crash than the buckled driver. Air bags also save lives.
- 7) Keep babies and toddlers safe. They crawl and climb, so pad sharp corners of tables, use safety locks on cabinets, install stairwell safety gates and secure windows. They also teethe, so hide the sharp pencils.
- 8) Be alert. Alert spectators can avoid foul baseballs and flying hockey pucks. Watch your step when climbing up bleachers.
- 9) Use common sense. If an activity carries risk of dental or facial injury, wear the right protective gear. Without it, even a pick-up basketball game could result in a trip to the emergency room.
- 10) Ask the experts. To learn more, visit the following Web sites and seek answers to your questions: [www.braces.org](http://www.braces.org), [www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org) and [www.aapd.org](http://www.aapd.org).



Cpl. Jason E. Miller

**A skateboarder grinds a rail at MCB Hawaii’s Skate Park. Mouth guards, helmets and protective eyewear can help protect young people from facial injury in all sports.**

Mouthguards can save your child’s smile and they can save you money at the orthodontist

**NAPS**  
*Featurettes*

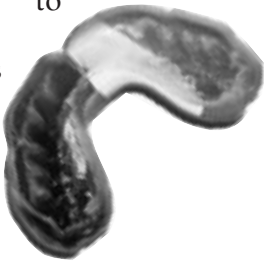
Playing sports is often about winning and losing. But losing should not include your teeth. Fortunately, mouth guards can help an athlete avoid becoming part of the statistics on sports-related injuries, which are nothing to smile about.

- Did you know?*
- More than five million teeth are knocked out each year through sports injury, accident or play.
  - Athletes are 60 times more likely to suffer damage to the mouth when not wearing a mouth guard.
  - Mouth guard use prevents approximately 200,000 oral-facial injuries each year.

- The cost to repair a knocked out tooth and follow-up care can be thousands of dollars — many times greater than a mouth guard.
- More and more states are requiring mouth guard usage for a growing number of sports.

*What do mouth guards provide?*

As the names implies, mouth guards help prevent injury to the mouth area, especially to the teeth, lips, cheeks and tongue. Many have useful features such as external visibility to ensure wear. Several varieties of mouthguards are available at local military exchanges.



*VOLLEYBALL, From C-1*

The yellow-jerseyed CSSG-3 jumped out to a quick 13-5 lead by the first break in the action, capitalizing on communication errors and miscues by the Warriors.

Setting up her teammates like an old pro was Pam Marshall, who with Eric Aisoff, helped finish off the first game for CSSG, 25-14.

The second game started much like the first, with both teams remaining even until CSSG-3 managed to develop a slight lead.

Then, going up for a block, Eric Aisoff came down hard on his ankle, and was forced to leave the game.

Headquarters Battalion capitalized on its opponent’s loss, driving ball after ball into the gap left by the CSSG-3 big man. John Weiss and Daniel Fitzsimmons were key to their team’s success on the court.

Battling fiercely, the Warriors forced a third and final game, winning the second game, 25-22.

At the side change that marks the midway point of the third game in Intramural Volleyball, CSSG-3 ran the score up to 8-3 on the spikes and slams of a fully recovered Aisoff.

The Warriors fought back to within three points, but it just wasn’t enough, with CSSG-3 taking the victory in the final game.



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

**Eric Aisoff of CSSG-3 spikes the ball past an outstretched Warrior, Douglas Peercy (5), during Intramural Volleyball action at the Semper Fit Center, Wednesday night.**



BASEBALL, From C-1

Things looked bleak for the MAG after O’Brian drove in another run. Kitchen came up the plate a few



Pfc. Rich Mattingly  
A batter from Marine Aircraft Group 24 swings at a pitch during the second game of the K-Bay Intramural Baseball Championship Series.

minutes later with the bases loaded, but Drake pitched through it once again to close the inning. The sixth inning was marked by a conference on the mound and a textbook 5-3 double play from Dunn to Dunham to support a rejuvenated Drake. Unfortunately for the Marauders, it proved to be too little, too late. “It’s been a really great season,” said 3/3 Coach Dennis Minton. “Intramural Baseball is really important for our guys to get away from work, and now they have something to show for it,” added Minton. Members of both teams congratulated each other on a great season and said they looked forward to competing again next season.

PROFESSOR, From C-3

Michael Jordan, excuse me, Alex Rodriguez, the Rangers have the best middle infield in baseball: shortstop Michael Young — not Derek Jeter — not Nomar Garciapara, not Miguel Tejada and not A-Rod — is on pace to start the All-Star game, while second baseman Alfonso Soriano is giving Ranger fans the same thing he gave Yankee fans: consistent production. What makes this story even better is that the combined salary of these two “All-Star” middle infielders are \$7.85M versus the \$21.7 M A-Rod receives this season. The Marine Corps prohibits me from giving financial advice, but that sounds like a good deal.

**Bottom Line:** It’s still early. But, the Rangers are getting consistent pitching from Kenny Rogers and R.A. Dickey. All-Star third baseman Hank Blalock continues to produce. Centerfielder Laynce Nix is quickly becoming a fan favorite, and manager Buck Showalter finally has what he has always wanted: a team. Don’t go handing the Rangers any pennants, yet. However, winning sure is a nice change from last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. Who would have thought that winning could also be done at a better price?

GOAT, From C-3

emoniously threw Sianis and his goat out. In retaliation, Sianis cast a “goat curse” on the Cubs, saying, “Cubs, they not gonna win anymore.” The Cubs, with a 2–1 series lead, subsequently lost the next three games — and the 1945 World Series — to the Detroit Tigers. They haven’t been to the World Series since.

**Bottom Line:** Texas is having a nice little run. So what? They’ve caught some teams off guard. But that’s all they’ve done. The baseball season is a long one, and the Yankees haven’t dug themselves in any type of real hole. In fact, it is difficult to even say they are in a hole. After all, the Yanks have just won four in a row, and are only one game back of the “surprise” Red Sox. In the 2004 World Series, please don’t look for the Rangers. They’ll only break your heart, just like the Cubs and the Red Sox. The biggest surprise of 2004 is that people have so quickly failed to come to grips with the reality that the Yankees are still the team to beat.